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**TMN-COT GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:09 p.m.**  
**AgriLife® Extension Building, Angleton, Texas**

**Kristine Rivers, President**, called the meeting to order and presented the agenda at 9:00 a.m. She reminded attendees to silence their phones and to sign-in and announced that most of the General Meeting portion of today's agenda would follow the Intern Class of 2017 Research Reports and Graduation.

**Attendance:** 67 members were in attendance and no guests.

**Host's Report: Pam West** thanked this month's snack team: Sheree Muzny, Lisa Myers, David Plunkett, and Kristine Rivers. She also thanked the intern training team and Don Sabathier, Becky McClendon, and Phyllis Gerdes for also bringing food and/or their kitchen assistance.

**Outreach: Ruby Lewis** Ruby reviewed the following, upcoming events and circulated sign-up sheets as applicable:

- Quintana Park Beach Safaris for kindergarten-age children—Mike Mullenweg will do one-on-one training as required; event on May 9, 10, 16, and 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. [mikem@brazoria-county.com](mailto:mikem@brazoria-county.com)
- Summer Bird Camp at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO)—June 5 through 9, one or two volunteers needed for one hour each morning before sessions start to conduct informal bird count and observation walks (but are welcome to stay and assist with additional activities); contact Sue McMillian [suelaine48@msn.com](mailto:suelaine48@msn.com)
- Nature Camp at Quintana Beach County Park—June 19 through 22; Mike Mullenweg is the contact [mikem@brazoria-county.com](mailto:mikem@brazoria-county.com); see calendar
- Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park—June 12 through 15, mornings; Mike Mullenweg is the contact [mikem@brazoria-county.com](mailto:mikem@brazoria-county.com); see calendar
- Brazoria County Library System (BCLS) Summer Reading Club—Multiple dates and times in June and July at various libraries; Ruby Lewis is the contact; see calendar

**Intern Class of 2017 Research Reports:** Carolyn May-Monie introduced each of the two teams that presented the reports listed below. She noted that Bill Ahlstrom would be the Class of 2018 Intern Representative to the COT board.

- "An Ecosystem Survey of a Section of the Gulf Coast Beach in the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge"; team members: Bill Ahlstrom, George Valadez, Vic Wade, Bob Whitmarsh; mentors: Mike Mullins, Larry Ruhr
- "Shadow Creek Ranch Nature Trail: A Man-Made Wildlife Oasis"; team members: Ed Peebles, Mike Lasseter, Ellen Lasseter, Megan Mainer; mentor: Kristine Rivers

Upon completion of the presentations, Carolyn presented TMN-COT membership certificates and shirts to the new members.

Afterwards, Kristine announced a 10-minute break before the start of the General Meeting.

When the meeting reconvened, Kristine thanked everyone for his or her volunteer efforts last month.



**Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier** announced that COT now has 501(c)(3) non-profit status, which means that contributions are tax deductible and eligible for matching donations. He then presented the financial report for 1 April to 30 April 2017.

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 8,395.48
Revenue Summary	\$ 115.00
Interest	\$ .79
Expense Summary	(\$ 514.99)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 7,996.28

**VMS and AT Updates / Awards: Peggy and Pete Romfh** presented VT and AT hours and impact data year-to-date and recognized the members listed below for achieving initial certification, recertification, and service hour milestones. Peggy noted that as of the previous night, members had volunteered over 7,600 hours this year.

<b>Impact Data</b>	<b># Adults</b>	<b># Youth</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 January – 30 April 2017	7,268	22,301	29,569

<b>Period</b>	<b>VT Hours</b>	<b>AT Hours</b>
1 January – 30 April 2017	7,180	763.3

<b>Initial Certification</b>	<b>Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)</b>	<b>250 Hours Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)</b>	<b>1000 Hours Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)</b>
Jackie Hicks ('16) Bill Ahlstrom ('17) Ellen Lasseter ('17) George Valadez ('17)	Howard Allen Jackie Hicks Anna King Larry Kirby Vicki Kirby	Mel McKey Neal McLain Tom Morris Mike Mullins Dick Schaffhausen Lorna Witt	Julia Geissler Larry Kirby Jo Myers Ken Sluis  Oron Atkins



**Volunteer Time (Service Projects):** Oron Atkins presented the following opportunities. He explained the links available via the TMN-COT calendar and how additional information for events, when available, is accessed. See <http://tmn-cot.org/Calendar/>.

- Bobcat Woods Trail Boardwalk—Officially resumed May 1; contact Oron Atkins [oronatkins@comcast.net](mailto:oronatkins@comcast.net)
- Grass Mowing at SBNWR—contact Roland Davis at [roland\\_davis@fws.gov](mailto:roland_davis@fws.gov) (will not have TMN calendar entry); SBNWR has only four maintenance employees and no regular refuge volunteers; no certification is required for zero-turn mowers
- Sea Turtle Patrol—on-going through July; see Sea Turtle Patrol Calendar
- Texas Coastal Watershed Program (TCWP) at GCBO (work day)—May 18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards [mcedwards@tamu.edu](mailto:mcedwards@tamu.edu)
- Pearland Floating Wetlands Workday—May 18; contact Mary Carol Edwards [mcedwards@tamu.edu](mailto:mcedwards@tamu.edu)
- Hanson Riverside County Park Trail Clearing—May 15; contact Mike Mullenweg [mikem@brazoria-county.com](mailto:mikem@brazoria-county.com); sign-up sheets distributed
- TCWP Exploration Green Planting at Clear Lake—May 13 and May 27; contact Mary Carol Edwards [mcedwards@tamu.edu](mailto:mcedwards@tamu.edu); see calendar
- Louisiana Eyed Silkmoth Project— From end of April to end of summer; has started with five volunteers; more help would be appreciated; contact Jennifer Wilson [jennifer\\_wilson@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_wilson@fws.gov) (no TMN calendar entry)
- Summer Bird Camp at GCBO—see Ruby Lewis' information, above, in Outreach.

**Advanced Training:** Larry Ruhr acknowledged a slowdown in available AT opportunities and asked to be contacted regarding additional AT opportunities.

Regarding the new TMN Specialist Certification, the Texas Waters Specialist, Larry announced that he will host the first, guided discussion of the required reading from Texas Waters—Exploring Water and Watersheds after the June general meeting; this will count as AT. Additional information is available in the May Chapter News. Larry asked that anyone who enrolls in the program should contact him ([ruhrfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ruhrfamily@gmail.com)) so that he can add the necessary code to VMS and add enrollees to an email list.

Larry then shared the following, upcoming AT events (see calendar for more information).

- Texas Stream Team Training—June 16 in Alvin; six hours (the first of three required sessions for certification)
- Instruments of Watershed Change Webinar—June 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; counts towards Texas Waters Specialist certification; will be posted to calendar in 1-2 days
- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop—July 11 at Brazoria County Fairgrounds, Angleton; four hours; counts towards Texas Waters Specialist certification
- AT Day—Under development by Larry, Jill Carroll and Jimmy Salinas for a Saturday in the fall and consisting of several topics; ideas are welcome.



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
**AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.**  
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**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project: Lisa Myers** reminded members to transmit digital images to her at [LisaMyers@tmn-cot.org](mailto:LisaMyers@tmn-cot.org).

**Boat Trip to North Deer Island Rookery—Kristine** presented information and handouts for a half-day trip she is organizing via BirdingForFun.com on Sunday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Larry stated that participants can apply for AT, as applicable, after-the-fact.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m. Time codes allocated for the presentations and general meeting are:

- Presentations: Code "AT: I Received Training," one hour (for interns, .5 "AT: I Received Training," and .5 "TR: I Trained Others."
- Chapter business meeting: Code "CB: Chapter Meetings and Admin," one hour + travel time

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary, TMN-COT